

Twins Hit Grant Slam For Wildlife

Minnesota Twins' first baseman Doug Mientkiewicz' second annual Bass Fishing Classic raised a record \$60,000 for Wildlife Forever.

The Doug Mientkiewicz Bass Fishing Classic was held Monday, June 28, 2004 amid sunny skies and calm blue waters. The team format tournament matches a

the great outdoors with Minnesota Twins fans."

The team of Brad Monnette, Matt Peters and Rodney McCormick with 16.24 pounds took first place. Second place went to Doug Mientkiewicz, Dean Capra and Robert Blake with 15.34 pounds. Jamie Ogden, David Skallet and Jim Gerchy won

oxygenating technology of Aqua-Innovations and their special release boat.

Expenses were kept very low thanks to the donated support of Maynard's Restaurant, the Minnesota Twins, Minnetonka Outdoors, Stearns and the pro bass anglers, each of whom donated their time, boat and fishing equipment.

"Proceeds from this year's event will be used to fund grassroots conservation grants for fish and wildlife work throughout the country", said Grann. "Local sportsmen groups and conservation clubs can apply for challenge grants directly from Wildlife Forever. This is another example of the Twins supporting the community and our natural resources."

Sponsors of the tournament included: The Minnesota Twins, Ranger Boats, Yamaha engines, Fox Sports Net, WCCO Radio, Twin City Co-ops Federal Credit Union, Stearns and Minnetonka Outdoors.

The tournament's fundraising efforts were supplemented with an on-site silent auction that raised nearly \$5,000. In addition, one amateur fishing spot was raffled off during the month of May that raised \$1,500. And in a surprise donation, Twin City Co-ops Federal Credit Union pledged \$5.00 for every pound of bass brought to the scale, adding another \$ 1,100 to their already generous contribution.



Wildlife Forever president and CEO Douglas H. Grann accepts a ceremonial check from Doug Mientkiewicz and his wife Jody for \$60,000.

celebrity athlete with a professional bass angler and an amateur in each boat. The 33 boats all arrived on time for the 1:00 PM weigh-in and a large crowd to watch each Minnesota Twin weigh-in with his team. Among past and present Twins weighing fish were Lew Ford, Gene Larkin, Jacques Jones, Jack Morris, Bert Blyleven, Johan Santana, Matthew LeCroy and Corey Koskie.

World Series champion and former Twin Kent Hrbek along with Doug Mientkiewicz acted as emcees as each team brought their catch to the stage. According to Douglas H. Grann, President & CEO of Wildlife Forever: "The crowd was thrilled having the two best first basemen in Twins history take the stage together. It was a rare opportunity to share the wonders of

third place with 13.39 pounds.

All of the fish were successfully released back into the lake, a 100% release rate, thanks to the advanced

Official Sponsors Of The Doug Mientkiewicz Bass Fishing Classic

